

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 ORM-01 DHA-02 VO-03

SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05

H-02 INSE-00 /055 W

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R 160905Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7454

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 3484

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, BG

SUKJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING POLITICAL ASYLUM CASE

1. THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A LETTER DATED JUNE 20 FROM SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY REGARDING ONE A.S.M. RAZOUR RAHMAN WHO IS SEEKING CONTINUATION OF POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BASIC DATA OF CASE AS CONTAINED IN RAHMAN'S PETITION FOR ASYLUM.

2. ACCORDING TO SENATOR'S JETTER, RAHMAN FLED BANGLADESH IN 1972 AND WAS GRANTED TEMPORARY ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES ON JANUARY 15, 1973. HIS APPLICATION FOR ASYLUM WAS REASSESSED RECENTLY AND DENIED QUOTE DUE TO THE CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL CLIMATE OF HIS COUNTRY END QUOTE. MR RAHMAN IS APPEALING THE DENIAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT HIS LIFE WOULD STILL BE THREATENED SHOULD HE RETURN TO BANGLADESH SINCE THERE ARE STILL WARRANTS OUTSTANDING FOR HIS ARREST. SENATOR KENNEDY ASKS EMBASSY TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT RAHMAN'S LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER SHOULD HE RETURN TO BANGLADESH.

3. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF MR. RAHMAN. SINCE HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRANTED TEMPORARY ASYLUM, WE PRESUME THAT HE MAY HAVE

BEEN CHARGED WITH SOME FORM OF COLLABORATION. EXCEPT FOR THOSE CHARGED WITH MAJOR CRIMES, THE BDG GRANTED AMNESTY TO COLLABORATORS OVER A YEAR AGO; HOWEVER, THOSE WHO HAD "ABSCONDED" ARE REQUIRED TO TURN THEMSELVES IN BEFORE AMNESTY CAN BE OBTAINED.

4. LITERALLY TENS OF THOUSAND OF PEOPLE WERE ACCUSED OF COLLABORATION. THEREFORE, BEFORE MAKING INFORMAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THE CASE WE NEED FURTHER INFORMATION ON MR. RAHMAN'S IDENTITY AND HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM. BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHATEVER CHARGES MAY BE PENDING WE DO NOT WISH TO INSTITUTE ANY FORMAL INQUIRIES OR AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH OF RECORD TO IDENTIFY CORRECT PERSON. THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE. (FYI: RAZOUR IS NOT AN ISLAMIC NAME, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CORRECT NAME IS RAZIUR OR FAZAUR RAHMAN.)

5. WE HAVE SENT SENATOR AN INTERIM REPLY VIAN NEA/PAB FOR TRANSMITTAL IF APPROPRIATE (POUCHED JULY 11).
BOSTER

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Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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